



Evaluation of Cittaslow Standards' Traditional Urban Texture and Buildings Aspects: From Traditional to Cittaslow-Taraklı Case

Nevnihal ERDOĞAN*¹

ORCID 1: 0000-0003-2259-3962

¹Kocaeli University, Faculty of Architecture and Design, Department of Architecture, 41100, Kocaeli, Turkey

*E-mail: nevtrakya@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this article is to evaluate the urban and architectural criteria focusing on the standards sought for having a quiet city certificate. As a method; the criteria for the conservation of traditional buildings from the Cittaslow movement criteria were examined. Map and architectural documents (scale survey and restitution projects, photographs, illustrations) of Taraklı's three traditional neighborhoods, 18 traditional residences, 8 civil architectural samples were obtained and visual architectural analyzes were made. In Taraklı, the preservation of traditional buildings over certain sample buildings was evaluated according to the cittaslow criteria of "preservation of traditional buildings" which were preserved / selected for traditional texture. To be able to comprehend the entire architectural heritage, the natural environment, the culture accumulated over the centuries, the lifestyle and the spirit of the settlement; a holistic protection and understanding of life has been achieved in Taraklı.

Keywords: Cittaslow criteria, historical neighborhood, traditional house, civil architecture, conservation.

Sakin Şehir Standartlarının Geleneksel Kent Dokusu ve Binalar Açısından Değerlendirilmesi: Gelenekten Sakin Şehire-Taraklı Örneği

Öz

Taraklı, Türkiye'de Kocaeli sınırına yakın bir Sakarya ilçesidir. Modern pastoral zihniyet ve mimari koruma ilkeleri ile öne çıkan bir yerdir. Halen geleneksel mimarisi korunmuş, restore edilmiş, restorasyona hazır tipik bir Anadolu kasabası özelliğini göstermektedir. Makalenin amacı, sakin şehir sertifikasına sahip olunması için aranan standartlar, özellikle kentsel ve mimari kriterlere odaklanarak değerlendirilecektir. Yöntem olarak; Cittaslow hareket kriterlerinden geleneksel yapıların korunması kriterleri incelendi. Taraklı'nın mevcut üç geleneksel mahallesi, 18 geleneksel konutu, 8 sivil mimari örneklerinin harita ve mimari dokümanları (ölçekli rölöve ve restitüsyon projeleri, fotoğrafları, illüstrasyonları) elde edilerek görsel mimari analizler yapıldı. Taraklı'da geleneksel dokuya dair korunmuş/değerlere seçilen "geleneksel yapıların korunması" Cittaslow kriterlerine göre belirli örnek binalar üzerinden tarihi binaların korunması değerlendirilmiştir Cittaslow standartlarından mimari mirasın Taraklı'nın sahip olduğu en güçlü unsur olduğunu söylenebilir. Mimari mirasın tümünü, doğal çevreyi,

Atıf: Erdoğan, N. (2020). Evaluation of Cittaslow Standards' Traditional Urban Texture and Buildings Aspects: From Traditional to Cittaslow-Taraklı Case. *Journal of Architectural Sciences and Applications*, 5 (1), 108-118.

DOI: [10.30785/mbud.662583](https://doi.org/10.30785/mbud.662583)



yüzyıllar içinde birikmiş kültürü, ananeyi, yaşam biçimini ve yerleşmenin ruhunu kavrayabilmek; bütüncül bir korumayı ve yaşam anlayışını Taraklı'da başarmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Cittaslow kriterleri, tarihi mahalleler, geleneksel konut, sivil mimarlık, koruma.

1. Introduction

Taraklı is a district of Sakarya, close to the Kocaeli border in Turkey. It is a place that stands out with modern pastoral mentality and architectural conservation principles. It showcases the typical characteristics of an Anatolian town with its conserved, restored and restoration-ready traditional architecture. Moreover, Taraklı's natural surroundings are unspoiled, it has vast fields that are suitable for organic farming and its residents are open minded people who are supportive of pioneering architectural practices such as Cittaslow.

Cittaslow movement came into existence as a reaction to unfavorable effects of globalization. Today, Cittaslow encompasses a resistance against a worldwide mechanical, pragmatic, egocentric and mundane lifestyle influenced by capitalism. The concept of Slow City, shaped by the Slow movement, emphasizes a focus on local aspects including endemic life forms, preservation of cultural values and a sustainable urban life.

Cittaslow was formed in 1999 as a descendant of the Slow movement in Italy's Chianti-Greve as four Italian mayors agree upon a set of principals regarding environmental pollution, encouragement of local sourcing and preservation of local culture and cuisine (Knox, 2005).

Cittaslow Association acts as the corporate governance body of the movement. Membership to the association is on a voluntary basis and the member cities adopt Cittaslow ideas applications and adhere to the criteria defined by the association (Radstrom, 2011).

Obtaining a Slow City certification requires meeting a certain set of conditions. The certification is granted to towns that meet these conditions and have a population under 50,000. The certification is renewed in every four years to ensure sustainability.

Turkey has the largest number of Slow Cities of any country (Cittaslow, 2016). Taraklı began its relationship with Cittaslow in 2010 and obtained its Slow City certification in 2011. Simultaneously, a range of applications was initiated to preserve the status of Taraklı.

Discovery of Taraklı's architectural value led to the preservation of a traditional architecture heritage that was to vanish. Restoration of such sites and the utmost care given to environmental protection through the leadership of informed city officials allowed Taraklı to enter the globally respected network of Cittaslow. In addition, Taraklı is also a member of European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN). Such designations and the applications undertaken during membership process make Taraklı a viable candidate for study of preservation and restoration of traditional architecture.

Hence "Gelenekten Cittaslow'a Taraklı" written by the authors of this abstract analyzes the applications undertaken in Taraklı in detail and forms the basis in this abstract (Erdoğan and Akarsu, 2018).

2. Material and Method

The careful work of Taraklı district, which is included in the Cittaslow (Calm City) network, is a worthy example to be examined in terms of conservation and restitution of traditional architecture. In the article, the standards sought to have a calm city certificate will be analyzed and evaluated especially according to urban and architectural criteria.

The literature on this research subject was examined. Three historical neighborhoods of Taraklı, 18 traditional houses, maps and architectural documents of 8 civil architecture samples (survey, restoration and restitution projects, photographs, illustrations) were obtained. The protection statuses of the buildings were evaluated by making visual architectural analyzes. In Taraklı, the preservation of traditional buildings over certain sample buildings was evaluated according to the "preservation of traditional buildings" cittaslow criteria, which were preserved/selected for traditional texture.

2.1. Cittaslow criteria

Cittaslow Association defined 59 criteria for certification under the following categories (Cittaslow Sunday, 2019).

1. Energy and environmental policies (11 criteria) 2. Infrastructure policies (13 criteria) 3. Quality of urban life policies (9) 4. Local Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (11 criteria) 5. Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (5 criteria) 6. Social cohesion (3 criteria) 7. Slow food partnerships (7 criteria) (Cittaslow, 2016).

The main features that slow cities should have are as follows: (Sezgin and Ünüvar, 2011; Güven, 2011; Knox, 2005).

- Urban membership must be less than 50,000 for membership.
- Cities should preserve their traditional structures. Preventions should be taken to protect the local from cultural uniformization.
- The cars should be removed from the city center
- Local products and businesses selling local products should be supported
- Renewable energy should be used
- There should be no supermarkets and fast food restaurants in the city
- Urban texture should be preserved
- Old buildings should be restored
- In addition to traditional handicrafts, modern industry should be supported to protect the region's identity.
- Urban life quality should be improved. For this, the use of technology should be encouraged.
- The distinctive features of the built environment should be preserved; creating more green spaces should be encouraged; city centers should be saved from neon lights, billboards, car horns; alternative energy sources should be used.
- Public transport should be supported and environmentally friendly architecture should be enabled.

Cittaslow movement leads small cities to preserve their heritage, to create traffic free city centers, to encourage local sourcing in conjunction with renewable energy policies and alternative tourism opportunities. Cittaslow can also be defined as the protection of traditional values and social texture. Inline with this global trend, interest in the preservation of architectural heritage, traditional nutrition and renewable energy allowed the movement a rapid expansion in Turkey.

3. Evaluation of Taraklı from an urban and architectural perspective according to cittaslow criteria

Based on the architectural discipline, it was evaluated according to the criteria bellow selected for the city and architecture of Taraklı in the cittaslow process:

- Cities should preserve their traditional structures.
- Urban texture should be preserved
- Old buildings should be restored

In this section, three neighborhoods of Taraklı were selected as 6 sample traditional building case studies. According to the selected cittaslow criteria, Taraklı's neighborhood texture, traditional residential and civil architecture samples were first analyzed and their traditional characteristics were revealed (architectural drawing, map, illustration, photography). In addition to this, the way preserving and maintaining of the traditional urban texture and the way of restoring the historical buildings was evaluated.

As a result of the processes we follow these developments, in this article based on the research project (Erdoğan and Akarsu, 2018) that examines the realized model of Taraklı in social, political, economic, cultural and architectural aspects, the restored or restructured traditional buildings that we examine

in terms of architecture building descriptions of how to protect it with functions for restoration and slow city understanding, examples based on architectural visual documents and some architectural examples of how they were transferred to the future were presented in architectural language according to the selected criteria.

The most important factor that Taraklı, won the slow city title in 2011, as a slow city, was its traditional architecture. Taraklı, which has a unique architectural style, has gained its distinctive feature by preserving and restoring many historical buildings. There are 94 registered civil architecture examples and 8 natural culture assets on the way to being a scalloped cittaslow city. The city received project support from the ministry of culture for the restoration of historic buildings and restoration projects. By establishing a renovation workshop in the district, the development and continuity of the restoration culture was ensured (Erdoğan and Akarsu, 2018). In this context, many historical mansions such as Kale Han, Küçükhan, Çakırlar and Orhangazi bazaar were restored and turned into a boutique hotel. According to the three criteria we have chosen, three traditional neighborhoods generally retain their texture features. The surviving examples of housing and civil architecture are retained and some continue to be preserved by giving them new functions, while others continue being protected. It can be said from the Cittaslow standards that architectural heritage is the most powerful element that Taraklı has.

Taraklı is in south of Sakarya and its origins date back to Paleolithic period. This historical habitation hosts several traditional architectural sites and declared as a protected area by the authorities. Origin of the current existing sites go back to 16th century. However, majority of the structures belong to 18th and 19th century.

Historical Taraklı is located on a rough country utilizing a network of narrow streets established to respect each street's landscape and sunlight. Houses are built mostly detached with minimal amount of contiguous buildings. Most structures are two storey high and are categorized as "house" or "estate" in regards to their respective sizes. Taraklı city center consists of Hacı Murat, Ulucami, Yusuf Bey and Yenidogan neighborhoods. Architectural textures of these neighborhoods are well preserved.

Most of the houses are two storey high with stone foundations and nogging walls. Most of the houses with alcoves, wide eaves and red brick rooftops are built according to the central hallway plan. Both garden houses and non-garden houses employ double leaf doors, which lead to a stony ground floor. This floor includes storage area, barn and workspace. Upper floor employs a central hallway to which the rooms open. A balcony covered with timber pillars or an alcove is usually located on the central axis of the main façade. In three storey houses the middle floor is reserved for workspace and living quarters while the balcony is located on the third floor.

During Taraklı's membership process to Cittaslow network the above mentioned architectural concepts were preserved and in some cases restored to meet the association's criteria.

3.1. Historical neighborhoods of Taraklı

Registered sites in Hacı Murat neighborhood;

1. Selahattin Kozcağız House
2. Hacı Murat Mosque
3. Alaaddin Öncü House
4. İsmail Hakkı Akay House
5. Hacı Murat School building
6. Meriç Özen House

Registered sites in Ulucami neighborhood;

1. Reyhan Tepe House
2. Hanımeli Estate/Kadir Sayın House
3. Hacı Rifatlar Estate
4. Rüştüye
5. Kadılar Estate
6. Çiçek Hanım Estate
7. İzzet Erdoğan House
8. Fatma İşsever House
9. Abdi İbrahim Estate/Sabahat Akın House
10. Fenerli House
11. Yunus Paşa Mosque /Kurşunlu Mosque
12. Çakırlar Estate
13. Çakıroğlu Estate
14. Hisar House
15. Hisar Mosque
16. Hacı Atif Inn
17. Old Bathhouse
18. Hamam Street 31 House

Registered sites in Yusuf Bey neighborhood;

1. Sadık Özen House
2. Yusuf Bey Mosque
3. Bedia Özyıldız House

A number of these historical structures were evaluated according to Cittaslow criteria using plans, photographs and illustrations (Figure 1).

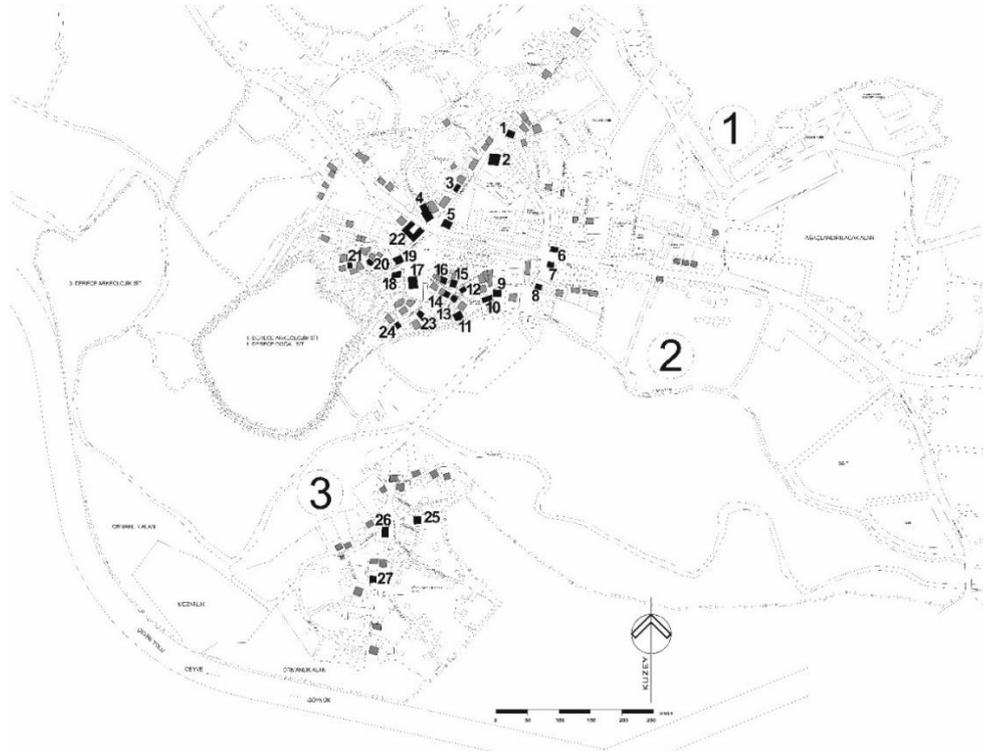


Figure 1. Map of Taraklı's Historical Neighborhoods

3.2. Hacı Murat Neighborhood / Hacı Murat Mosque

Hacı Murat Mosque was built in 19th century. It is located on the intersection of Mimar Sinan and Fatih avenues inside a garden fenced by a stone wall. The hipped roof mosque was built upon a stone foundation with brick masonry. A single balcony minaret is located on the west wall of the mosque facing Mimar Sinan Avenue. Upper windows are semi circle arched while the lower windows are rectangular. The ablution fountain is located on the north of the garden (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Westward illustration of Hacı Murat Mosque (illustrator: Z. Türkiz Özbursalı)

3.3. Hacı Murat Neighborhood / İsmail Hakkı Akay House

Located on Hıdırlık Street, İsmail Hakkı Akay House was built upon a stone foundation using plaster coated timber walls. Adjacent to the house there is also a workshop for silkworm breeding. Entrance

to the two storey house is through a small garden. The house was built using a central hallway plan. On the axis of the upper floor entrance there is a hipped roof alcove based on timber buttresses. The building is hipped roof and utilizes timber eaves (Figure 3, 4, and 5).

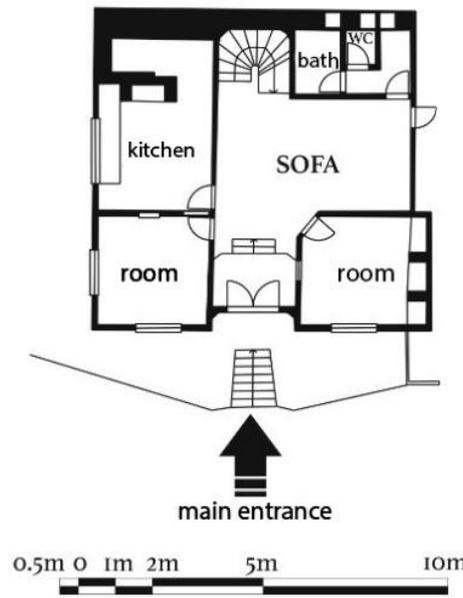


Figure 3. Ground Plan / İsmail Hakkı Akay

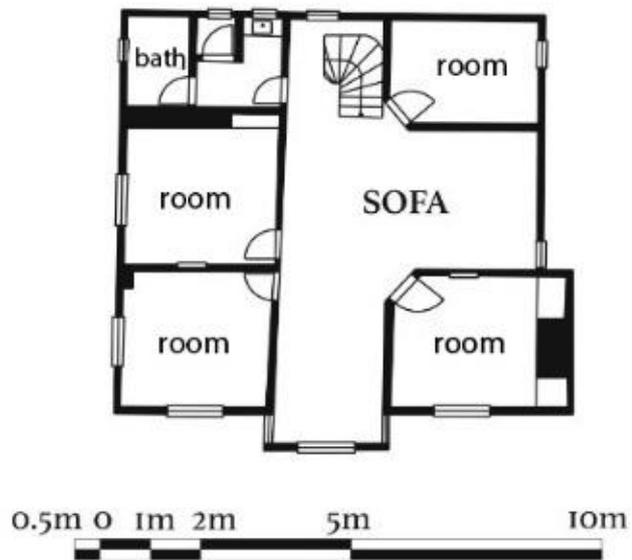


Figure 4. Upper floor plan /İsmail Hakkı Akay



Figure 5. Illustration of the entrance façade//İsmail Hakkı Akay (illustrator: Z. Türkiz Özbursalı)

3.4. Ulucami Neighborgood / Fenerli House

Fenerli House is located on the intersection of Üst Rüştiye Street and Altıncı Geçit. Two façade house is the most unique building in Taraklı. The house was built upon a stone foundation using timber bearings. It has been restored and is currently utilized as a cultural center. Three storey building has entrances from both streets. The gazebo on the roof has basic octagon flat arch windows. A covered alcove is located on the south façade above the street door. The second floor balcony is on timber girders with a triangular pediment hipped roof. External facade of the building is painted white over plaster. On the right facade of the house there is another alcove on timber buttresses (Figure 6, 7, and 8).

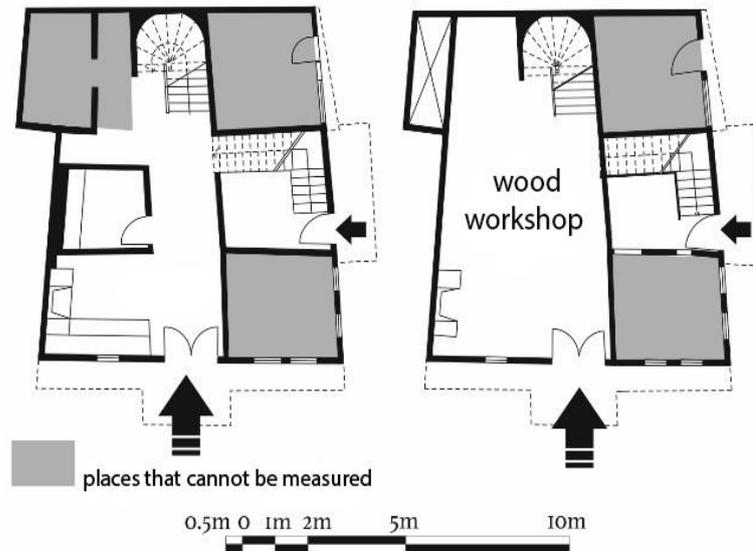


Figure 6. Ground and first floor plans /Fenerli house (measured drawings)

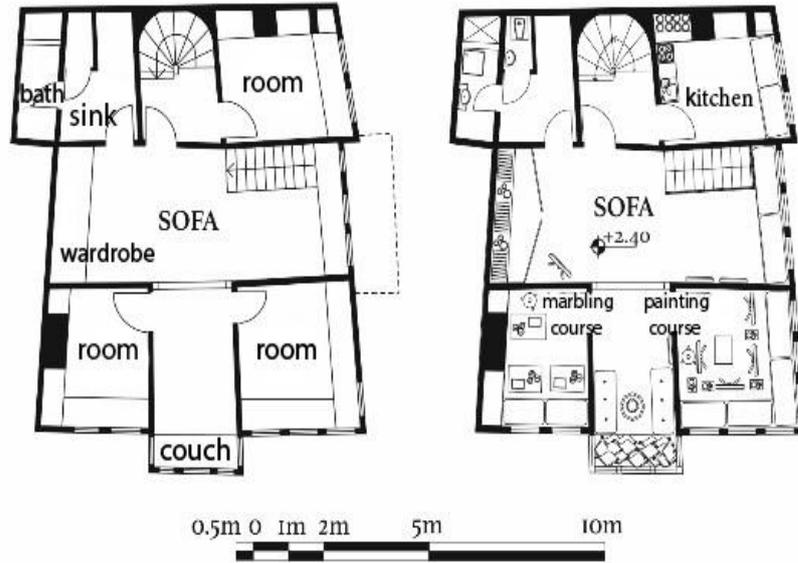


Figure 7. Ground and first floor plans /Fenerli house (measured restoration)



Figure 8. Illustration of Fenerli House (illustrator: Z. Türkiz Özbursalı)

3.5. Ulucami Neighborhood / Hisar Mosque

It is estimated that Hisar Mosque located on the Hisar Hill was built in later 18th century. The mosque was rebuilt in 1955 and does not conform to its authentic form. The single balcony minaret has a hipped roof (Figure 9 and 10).



Figure 9. Illustration of Hisar Mosque minaret (illustrator: Z. Türkiz Özbursalı)



Figure 10. Hisartepe (illustrator: Z. Türkiz Özbursalı)

3.6. Ulucami Neighborhood Çakırlar / House

Çakırlar House is located on a steep terrain in Yıldırım Street leading to Hisar Hill. Three storey estate is entered through a double leaf door. A five-step stairway on the stony ground floor leads to the first floor, which has central hallway plan. There are three rooms and a kitchen on this floor. There are four rooms on the second floor with corner doors. The saddle-roofed estate has a balcony on each floor above the secondary entrance door on the east facade. Outer walls of the house are painted white over plaster (Figure 11, 12, and 13).

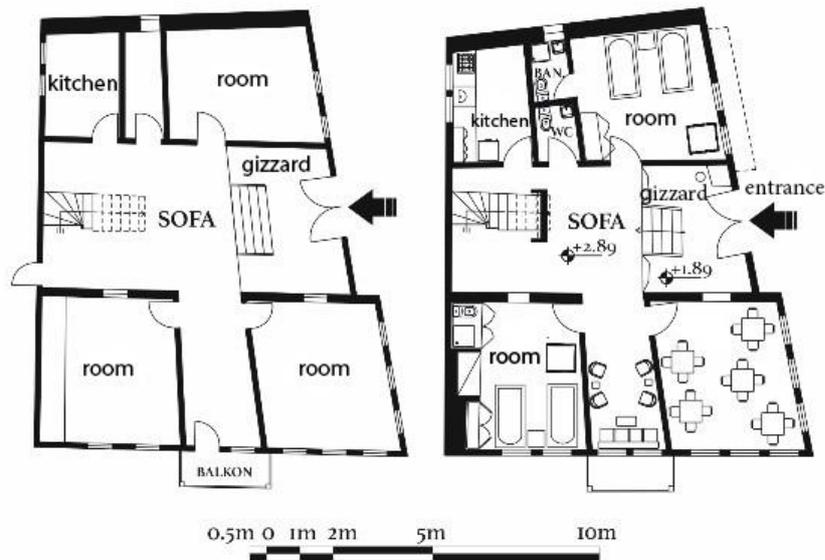


Figure 11. First and second floor plans / Çakırlar House (measured drawings)

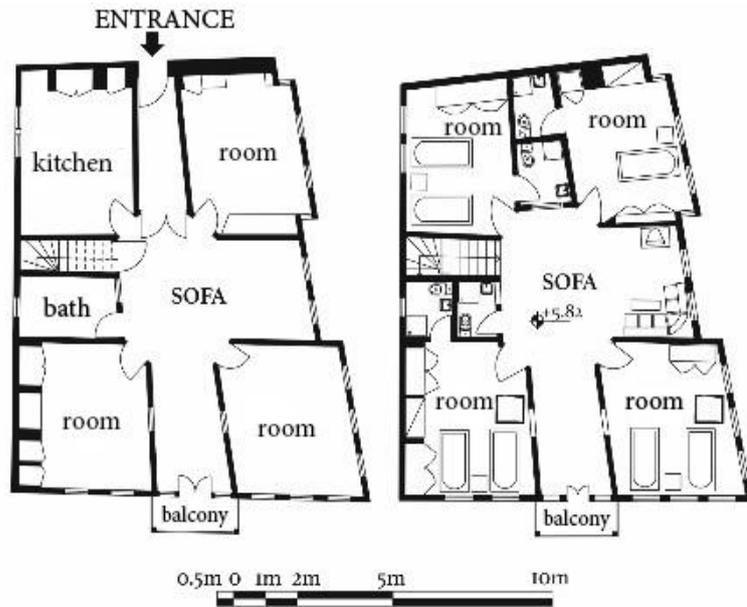


Figure 12. First and second floor plans / Çakırlar House ((measured restoration)



Figure 13. Northeastward illustration of Çakırlar House (illustrator: Z. Türkiz Özbursalı)

3.7. Yusuf Bey Neighborhood / Sadık Özen House

Sadık Özen House is a three storey residence built upon a stony foundation with timber framework and noggin walls located on Özen Street. A large garden surrendered by high capstone walls is entered through a double lead timber door. Built upon a steep terrain, the house has a double leaf entrance door on the west facade and a single leaf entrance door on the north facade. East façade of the house has no windows while there is an oriel hallway on west facade of the first floor. The second floor has a hallway plan with rooms on the corners (Figure 14, 15, and 16).

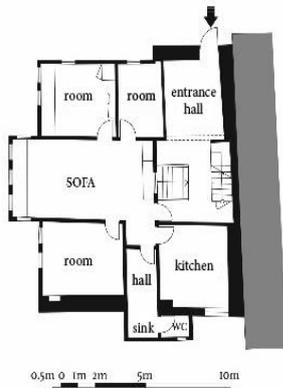


Figure 14. First plan / Sadık Özen House



Figure 15. Second plan / Sadık Özen House



Figure 16. Westward illustration/ Sadık Özen House (illustrator: Z. Türkiz Özbursalı)

4. Evaluation and Results

Taraklı, a typical Midwest Anatolian town, met Cittaslow criteria substantially as discussed in detail in “Gelenekten Cittaslow’a Taraklı”. The town is continuing its efforts to ensure the sustainability of compliance to these criteria. Taraklı’s rich architectural heritage proved to be the essential factor in its inclusion in Cittaslow network. Alongside other Cittaslow criteria, analyses provided above regarding the preservation and restoration of Taraklı’s architectural texture will provide us with valuable insight about Cittaslow criteria regarding architecture.

However, the main argument to be discussed is that compliance with Cittaslow criteria and inclusion to the network is a highly efficient model for preservation and enrichment of architectural heritage. Expansion of this model throughout Anatolia will benefit the efforts to pass on the cultural heritage to the future generations.

To be able to comprehend the entire architectural heritage, the natural environment, the culture accumulated over the centuries, the tradition, the lifestyle and the spirit of the settlement; A holistic protection and understanding of life has been achieved in Taraklı.

Acknowledgement and Information

The article complies with national and international research and publication ethic rules. Ethics Committee permission was not required in the study.

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